

“ An observation of mine, contained in a letter to Sir W. Hooker, and which was not meant for publication, has been misunderstood, and has led to the propagation of error—for which I am very sorry. In it I said the Thylacine’s tail was *not compressed*—in reference to an observation of Mr. Swainson’s in the ‘*Encyclopædia of Geography*’ (then recently published), that the tail of the Thylacine was compressed, *which suggested the supposition that it was used in swimming*, &c. It was to the latter part of this observation that my remarks were particularly applied (vide *Annals of Nat. Hist.* vol. i. p. 101–2), and I meant that the tail was not compressed to such an extent as to have justified the inference that it was useful in swimming; and thus that the animal obtained its food principally from the sea, which the paragraph in the ‘*Encyclopædia of Geography*’ implied. The tail is obviously slightly compressed, but not, I think, more so than the tails of the Dasyures, to which aquatic habits are not attributed. In writing hurriedly—and not for publication—I did not express myself with the precision I ought to have done. I mainly wished to point out that the tail would not justify the inference of Mr. Swainson (which I thought very far strained), that the animal was aquatic in its habits and piscivorous. Pray set me right whenever you have an opportunity.

“ I beg to remain, Sir, yours very faithfully,

“ RONALD C. GUNN.”

“ *D. W. Mitchell, Esq., Secretary Zoological Society.*”

The Secretary then called the attention of the meeting to three eggs of the Wedge-tailed Eagle of Australia, *Aquila audax*, Lath., which had been recently laid in the Menagerie (Aves, Pl. XIX.), and which were probably the only perfect specimens yet known. The same female had produced two eggs in the spring of 1849, but they were immediately destroyed either by herself or the male, as fragments only were discovered by the keeper.

The following papers were read:—

1. DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW BIRDS. BY J. GOULD, F.R.S. &c. &c.
(Aves, Pl. XX.)

It is no less interesting than true, that during the past two years we have had accessions in ornithology of no ordinary value; comprising as they do additional species of several anomalous forms, of each of which only one was previously known; for instance, we have a second species of the genera *Apteryx*, *Menura*, and *Ptiloris*. On the present occasion I have the good fortune to offer to the notice of this Meeting new species of two forms, equal in interest to those above referred to, viz. that of *Cephalopterus*, a form known to all as being American, and of which the type is the remarkable species *Cephalopterus ornatus*, commonly called the Umbrella Bird. The discovery of a second species of this form is due to the researches of M. Warzewickz, a gentleman who has just returned from Central America, after trav-

sing parts of that country hitherto untrodden by Europeans: it was in the high Cordillera of Chiriqué in Veragua, at an elevation of 8000 feet, that this bird was found, and of which the individual now exhibited was the only one procured.

CEPHALOPTERUS GLABRICOLLIS. (Aves, Pl. XX.)

This new species differs in many particulars from its congener, particularly in its smaller size, in the lesser development of its umbrella-like hood, and in its denuded fore-neck and chest, and in the absence of feathers on the base of the tab or appendage at the basal part of the neck. M. Warzewickz describes the bare part of the neck to be reddish orange, and the bare base of the tab as bright red. This fine bird forms part of the collection of T. B. Wilson, Esq., of Philadelphia.

Independently of the novelty just described, M. Warzewickz brought me six species of Humming Birds entirely new to science; these, with some other new species of the same group, I propose to characterize at a future meeting.

By Lord Gifford, who has recently returned from a journey in Thibet, ornithology has been enriched by the discovery of a new species of *Syrnhaptēs*, a form as extraordinary in its way as that of any of those above noticed; the new species is finer both in size and colouring than the *Syrnhaptēs paradoxus*; it was shot on the banks of the Stumererri Lake, where two examples were seen, but unfortunately only one was procured; it appears to be an adult male, for which I propose the name of

SYRRHAPTES TIBETANUS.

Face hoary; front and sides of the neck ochreous yellow; feathers of the head and nape brown at the base, and alternately barred at the tip with black and white; upper part of the back, front and sides of the breast buffy white, crossed by narrow irregular bars of blackish brown; all the upper surface and wings buff, pencilled all over with dark brown, the pencillings being conspicuous on the back, and so minute on the wings as to be almost imperceptible; scapularies largely blotched on their inner webs with black; primaries and secondaries slaty black, the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth primaries with an oblique mark of brownish white at the tip; basal half of the two centre tail-feathers buff, pencilled with brown, their apical half narrow, filamentous and black; lateral tail-feathers sandy red, crossed by three widely placed irregular bands of black, and tipped with buffy white; under surface buffy white, minutely pencilled on the breast with brown; legs of the same hue, but the feathers banded with faint bars of brown; bill and nails black.

Total length, $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{5}{8}$; wing, 10; tail, $7\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi, 1.

Hab. Ladakh in Thibet.

Remark. Distinguished from the *S. paradoxus* by its much larger size, by the primaries not being extended into the filamentous form so remarkable in that species, and by the absence of any black colouring on the breast.



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CEPHALOPTERUS GLABRICOLLIS Gould.

The only example which has come under my notice is in the possession of the Rt. Hon. the Lord Gifford, to whom I am indebted for permission to include a figure of it in my work on the 'Birds of Asia.'

Extraordinary as have been the new species discovered during the last few years, of that remarkable group the *Ramphastidæ*, no one is more singular than the bird which I now submit to the notice of the Meeting; it may be regarded as an evidence that all the members of the group are not yet known to us, and that the productions of the rich forests of the Cordillerian Andes appear to be inexhaustible. It had long been my intention to propose a generic name for the Andean group of Toucans, characterized by the dense villose clothing of the under surface, the colouring of which is of a uniform tint, instead of being crossed by bars of black, red and yellow as in the typical *Pteroglossi*; and at no moment could such a step be more appropriately taken than at the present, when characterizing a new species of this section, for which, indicative of the country in which the members are found, I propose the generic term of *Andigena*, and for the new species, *A. laminirostris*; the other species pertaining to this genus are *A. hypoglaucus*, *A. nigrirostris*, *A. cucullatus*, and *A. Bailloni*. The new species *A. laminirostris*, which is distinguished by the yellow laminæ near the base of the upper mandible, is the property of Dr. T. B. Wilson of Philadelphia, to whom and to his brother, E. Wilson, Esq., I am indebted for permission to describe this fine bird; the native habitat of which is the forests at the base of Pichincha, a high mountain of Ecuador.

GENUS ANDIGENA.

Gen. Char.—Bill stout, swollen, and moderately large when compared with the bill of the true *Pteroglossi*; wings and tail very similar to those of *Aulacorhynchus*. General plumage long, loose, and hair-like.

The species belonging to this genus are—

Andigena hypoglaucus (*Pteroglossus hypoglaucus*, Gould).

— *cucullatus* (*Pteroglossus cucullatus*, Gould).

— *nigrirostris* (*Pteroglossus nigrirostris*, Waterh.).

— *laminirostris*, Gould.

— *Bailloni* (*Pteroglossus Bailloni*, Wagl.).

All are characterized by a uniform wash of colour on the under surface, in lieu of the bars of rich red and black so conspicuous in the true *Pteroglossi*.

ANDIGENA LAMINIROSTRIS.

Crown of the head and back of the neck deep black; upper surface golden brown; primaries black; rump pale sulphur-yellow; upper tail-coverts very dark green; tail dark slaty grey, four central feathers largely tipped with chestnut-red; under surface ashy blue; on either flank a large patch of rich yellow; thighs deep chestnut; under tail-coverts blood-red; orbits apparently orange; culmen and apical half of both mandibles black; a broad band on the base of